

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

BULLETIN ¹¹ H

R O Y A L P A L M N U R S E R I E S

Orlando, Fla., -- Apr. 1, 1930.

"Tropical Plants For Temperate Climates"

The growing familiarity of everyone, and particularly those who spend a portion of each year in our glorious Florida sunshine, with the strikingly beautiful foliage of our tropical and semi-tropical climate, has brought about an increased desire to enjoy, as much as is possible, these same beauties in their Northern gardens. Many Winter visitors arrange with us each season to ship back to them in the North, certain plants they have selected while they were in Florida, and it is with the idea of making this information more generally available to everyone -- so far as appropriate subjects for this purpose is concerned -- that this bulletin is issued.

G A R D E N O R H O U S E

The various materials suitable for creating tropical effects may be subdivided roughly into two groups, ie, those requiring full sun and plenty of room for their roots, and therefore garden culture, and another group which will withstand indoor conditions and pot or tub culture, and are therefore especially fitted for house decoration. It should be borne in mind, also, that most of the House Plant group may also be grown out-of-doors in the summer months (usually under the shade of trees or shrubbery to prevent sunburn), plunging the pots or tubs in the soil, if desired, and then taken back in the house in the Fall, when cold weather becomes imminent.

F O L I A G E -- C O L O R -- P E R F U M E

Probably the major impressions of the tropics carried away by the average visitor are the odd "Tropical" foliage, especially Palm leaves, the great masses of brilliantly colored flowers and foliage, and the delightful exotic perfumes, many of them night-borne. Our suggestions for the garden will, therefore, be further subdivided into three separate groups covering these three distinct effects. Indoor conditions unfortunately are not favorable for the development of strong colors or perfume, so we have only the one group under this classification.

-----o-----

TROPICAL FOLIAGE EFFECTS FOR THE GARDEN

Palms are perhaps the most prominent note in the tropical landscape, but as most of them are relatively slow growing, they will be limited in garden use to those plants which can be accommodated indoors during the Winter months. Among the hardiest and best suited for Garden Culture are Cocos plumosa, Phoenix canariensis, Washingtonia robusta, Livistona chinensis (Latania), Cocos australis, and Cycas revoluta (Sago). We offer small plants of these at \$1.00 each, \$10.00 for the collection; and large sized plants at \$3.50, \$17.50 for the collection.

Bamboos are perhaps next in importance in securing tropical effects. Fortunately many of them are comparatively hardy, the Bambusa metake and Phyllostachys aurea being hardy as far North as the Ohio River, and the small-caned clump varieties of Bambusa nana through most of the Gulf states. The two former make excellent pot specimens, and the latter are excellent for larger tubs. Being gross feeders, they should all be heavily fertilized. Nice young clumps of all sorts at \$1.00 each, or a collection of four of the most popular for \$3.50.

BANANAS suggest the tropics in a very definite way, and being quick-growing, can be planted out direct in the garden soil, and if well watered and fertilized will develop marvelously before frost. Or they may also be tub grown and carried thru the Winter indoors. We offer both dwarf and tall-growing varieties in small tubers just developing leaves, at 50¢ each, six for \$2.50; larger plants with one or two small leaves, at \$1.00 each, six for \$5.00.

CALADIUMS and similar plants in the genera Alocasia, Colocasia, and Xanthosoma, known generally as a class as "Elephant Ears", are very useful in securing Tropical "atmosphere". The taller-growing, green-leaved sorts do well in either sun or shade, but the highly colored dwarf Fancy Leaved Caladiums must have a shady situation. They are lovely mixed in with Ferns, or under the shade of taller shrubs, and lend a note of brilliant color very useful in lighting up the dark places. (Caladiums are one of our specialties. Ask for our Special Bulletin on this subject if you are interested in building up a large collection of them.) Strong tubers of either sun or shade-loving classes at 50¢ each, \$5.00 per dozen. Already in growth, they will come to you packed in damp moss, and will probably lose the leaves now on them, but will quickly come again from the bulb. By harvesting the bulbs after the first frost in the Fall, and storing in a warm, dry place for the Winter, they may be carried over year after year.

YUCCAS and AGAVES, sometimes called "Century Plants", are very useful for this work also, either as clumps of several varieties in front of other shrubbery, or as individual formal specimens for gardens or terraces. The Yuccas, "Spanish Bayonets", are hardy well up into North Carolina and Tennessee and may be left in permanent positions in the garden, but the Agaves had better be wintered indoors or replanted new each season. We carry a variety of sorts at \$1.00 each for small plants, or \$2.00 for larger; or an assortment of a pair of each of our three most popular sorts at \$5.00 and \$10.00 for the two sizes.

PANDANUS voitchii and utilis, the green-and-white "Ribbon Plant", and the bronze-leaved "Screw Pine" are used like the AGAVES in securing tropical effects, but have the advantage of faster growth and therefore relatively cheaper prices. Nice young plants of each at 50¢ each, \$5.00 per dozen. Larger, at \$1.00 each, \$10.00 per dozen. They make excellent decorative plants indoors, as well.

MOSES BULLRUSH, at 75¢ each for strong divisions, Umbrella Grass at 25¢ and 50¢ each for pot plants, and Thalia divaricata at 25¢ for strong, young plants, are useful around pools and aquatic planting. Air Plants, at 50¢ each, are also useful in securing unique effects.

TROPICAL COLOR MASSES FOR NORTHERN GARDENS

Striking masses of tropical colors are usually thought of as flowers, but it should not be forgotten that many delightful masses of colors effectively used to give contrast to border plantings are made up entirely of foliage plants.

ACALYPHAS, tricolor and mosaica, for red shades, and godseffiana for yellow, grow very rapidly in rich soil and make strong plants in one season. Plant about 18" to 2' apart. Small plants from $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pots at \$1.25 a dozen.

CROTONS, with their infinite variety of leaf form and coloration, are highly prized by the plant collector, and their rapid growth fits them splendidly for summer bedding. At the same time, they are long-lived enough to make excellent house plants and conservatory specimens. We can furnish mixtures and assortments predominatingly red or yellow; or we will gladly furnish a full list of varieties with descriptions to the collector who is interested in a large assortment. Small $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pot size at 25¢ each, \$2.50 a dozen; larger from 3" or 4" pots, at 50¢, \$5.00 a doz.

DRACAENAS of the brighter colored pink and red varieties make brilliant color splashes in shady spots in the garden, although they will not thrive in as dark situations as the Fancy Leaved Caladiums mentioned on the previous page, which should also be remembered in this group. They must be heavily fertilized to develop their full color. Absolutely perfect plants command a high price in the Florist trade, but well colored plants with minor leaf faults are equally satisfactory for Garden use, since they soon put forth new leaves and out-grow these imperfections. Small plants from 4" pots at \$1.00 each; larger, \$1.50.

HIBISCUS are perhaps the most typically "Floridian" of all the flowering plants. Quick growing, freely and constantly blooming, they are splendid for summer Garden culture in Northern gardens. We offer small pot plants in red, pink, and orange shades, in $2\frac{1}{2}$ " or 3" pots at 25¢ each, \$3.50 a dozen, and larger, from 4" pots, at 35¢, \$3.00 per dozen. For important garden positions, we have also prepared "Standard", or tree-shaped tub specimens which are very effective on terraces, etc., at \$2.50 each for the single-flowered sorts, and \$3.50 each for the double-flowered. The Malvaviscus, or "Turk's Cap", with its curiously shaped, brilliant red flowers so profusely borne, should be remembered along with the Hibiscus, with which it is classed as to price and culture.

OLEANDERS have been favored as tub plants for many years, and, properly cared for, produce a wealth of color that is truly delightful. Too slow growing for summer planting only, they must be tub grown and carried through the winter indoors. Our assortment of varieties is probably the best in America, running through all shades of white, cream and pink, to the deepest red, in both single and double flowered varieties. We carry quite an assortment of tub specimens ranging from \$2.50 to \$5.00 and \$8.00 each, but, as the transportation charges are quite an item on such heavy stock, we have made a practice of selecting suitable plants for tubbing, either bushy or standard tree-shaped plants, and carefully pruning and shipping with bare roots for tubbing by the customer. In this way we can offer medium sized plants at \$1.50 each or a collection of two each of three colors for \$8.00.

BULBS should not be overlooked in the list of subjects providing tropical color effects. Cannas are already well known, and the Day Lilies (Heimerocallis) are becoming increasingly popular. Both can possibly be secured from your local Florist or Nurscryman, but we offer special collections of each, covering a full assortment of colors, at \$1.50 a dozen, three dozen for \$4.00. Our heavy Canna plants, already in growth, should not be confused with the dry roots offered by some other concerns.

CRINUMS are among the more unusual bulbous subjects that deserve greater attention. The more common sorts known as "Milk And Wine Lilies" come in variations of white and purplish-pink stripes, but self-colored varieties of an even coloring are available in all shades from pure white through pink to light red. Other sorts known as "Spider Lilies" are remarkable for their odd flowers. These bulbs, by planting rather deeply and hilling up with earth during the winter, will be found perfectly hardy well into North Carolina and Tennessee, and can be grown anywhere by bringing into the cellar during the winter. Strong bulbs of all sorts, except the latest novelties, at \$1.00 each; a collection of six sorts for \$5.00. Full descriptive list of varieties on request.

PERFUME PLANTS IN THE GARDEN

Rare and exotic perfumes have always been one of the most interesting phases of the Tropical Garden, but there are some subjects which have highly perfumed flowers and at the same time are hardy enough for gardens outside the tropics -- at least, throughout the Gulf states. Others are of quick growth and can be grown in the garden in the short summer months, and others of slower growth make excellent pot or tub specimens that can be carried over indoors in Winter and used in garden decoration in the summer.

MAGNOLIA FUSCATA (*Michelia*), or "Banana" shrub, is excellent for garden culture as shrubs, or eventually small trees, and is hardy throughout the Southern states. It is also an excellent pot and tub subject and an excellent conservatory specimen.

SWEET OLIVE (*Osmanthus fragrans*)(*Olea*), hardy out of doors as far as North Carolina and Tennessee, is also an excellent tub plant as well as garden shrub.

TRACHELOSPERMUM (*Rynchospermum*) JASMINOIDES, the Confederate Jasmine, an excellent trellis and pergola vine throughout the South and intensely fragrant and free-blooming, is also often grown in pots and tubs on small ornamental lattices or shaped in balls, pyramids or urn shapes, like English Ivy, for house and Conservatory culture, indoors.

PRICES:

On the hardier subjects above: strong young plants @ \$1.00 each, quite heavy specimens at \$2.00, or a collection of one each of the three subjects at \$2.50 and \$5.00 for the two sizes.

On the tenderer subjects below: nice young plants at 35¢ each, three for \$1.00; heavier plants, 50¢ each. Collections of three each of the three sorts at \$2.50 and \$3.50.

NIGHT-BLOOMING JESSAMINE (*Cestrum nocturnum*) is an excellent subject for summer garden growth, blooming profusely in late summer with a very rich fragrance that appears only after nightfall.

PAPAYA (*Carica papaya*), "Papaw", or melon fruit, is also decidedly worth while, not only for the delicious perfume of its flowers but also for its odd foliage. A rank grower, it must be heavily fertilized. Do not confuse it with the Northern Papaws, belonging to the genus *Asimina*.

BUTTERFLY LILIES (*Hedychium coronarium*) are splendid additions to the garden in moist soil, giving lovely foliage with a ginger-scent when crushed and intensely fragrant flowers in late summer.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS suggest Florida and the tropics in a very definite way, and in recent years we have furnished quite a quantity of tubbed plants of different varieties, such as Calamondins, Kumquats and Meyer Lemons at \$5.00 each, and Nursery plants with bare roots for tubbing by the customer, at \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. Larger specimens and complete collections of varieties for formal terraces, Orangeries, Conservatories, Park Systems, etc., quoted upon application.

OLEANDERS in some varieties, particularly the double pink (*Splendens*) and double white (*Madonna grandiflora*) varieties are very fragrant. See Page 3 for prices.

The JASMINES are justly famous for their perfume qualities, and several make excellent pot and tub plants for indoor culture. The double flowered "Grand Duke" and single "Catalonian" Jasmines, (*Jasminum grandiflorum*) at 50¢ each, are among the best.

CAPE JESSAMINES or GARDENIAS, are also excellent pot and tub plants. They should have very rich, heavy soil to attain their best development. Small pot plants at 50¢ each, and splendid tub plants in flower, at \$2.50 each.

MILADY'S HOUSE PLANTS

PALMS are among the most popular house plants, and surely make appropriate souvenirs of a visit to Florida or elsewhere in the tropics. The varieties mentioned on the second page of this bulletin are excellent for House culture, as well as garden decoration. We might add to these another assortment which, while they can be carried out of doors in shady places in the summer time, are more particularly for house or conservatory culture. Areca lutescens, Caryota urens (The Fishtail Palm), Phoenix reclinata, Phoenix roebeleni (The Pigmy Date), Seafortnia elegans, and Thrinax argentea, are among the best of this group. The Thrinax argentea (Thatch Palm), being a native of our Florida Keys, is particularly appropriate as a Florida souvenir. Small plants of all the above varieties at 50¢ each, \$2.50 for the six sorts; larger at \$1.00 each, \$5.00 for the collection; splendid plants at \$2.50 each, \$12.50 for the collection.

SANSEVIERIAS are very popular as house plants just now, lasting well in dark places with a minimum of attention. Made-up plants of both the wide and narrow-leaved green sorts at \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.50. The gold-striped variety at \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.50 for single potted plants; \$2.50, \$3.50 and \$5.00 for made-up specimens. CACTI also last well indoors, and make excellent table pieces. We offer specially prepared decorative bowls at \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.50 each, or if you have your own container, we will be glad to plant it for you. Small plants of the rare "Crab-claw" Cactus (Epiphyllum truncatum) for growing on into specimen porch plants, 50¢ each. ASPIDISTRAS have always been favorites for dark situations. We have the plain green variety at 50¢, \$1.00 and \$1.50 each, and the green and white variegated at \$1.00 and \$1.50 each. "LIVE FOREVER" (Bryophyllum pinnatum), KALANCHOES and ALOES are Cactus relatives, but with more ornamental leaves, and like them, are very resistant. Single plants at 50¢ each, or made-up specimens at \$1.00.

The AMAZON LILY (Eucharis Amazonica) is a splendid house plant with its wide green leaves, and has beautiful, large, waxy-white flowers, usually about Christmas and the Holiday season. Potted plants at \$1.00 each. AMARYLLIS also are excellent blooming plants for pot culture, flowering usually in early spring. Blooming six bulbs of the light red Equestre at 25¢ each and 50¢ for the curious double-flowered form, the dark red Johnsoni variety at 50¢ each and the fancy hybrids which may bloom in any color from almost pure white to the darkest blood red, at 75¢ each. A collection of two each of the four sorts for \$3.50. Geraniums, the pink and red overblooming Begonias, and the blue-flowered African "Violets" are other flowering plants that should not be overlooked. Strong plants at 55¢ each, \$3.00 per dozen. A collection of two each of the three subjects for \$1.50.

FERNS lend an air of elegance that is hardly given by any other house plant. We have some especially nice small plants of the Baby's Breath variety at 50¢ each. Also Maidenhair Ferns, and various Nephrolepis, Pteris and Selaginellas at the same price. A collection of six different sorts for \$2.00. Asparagus sprengeri, strong plants with long fronds at 50¢ each.

RUBBER PLANTS (Ficus elastica) are sold quite commonly now as rooted cuttings by the chain stores at 25¢ each, but our well-established pot plants at 50¢ each are more desirable to most people. The fancier sorts such as the green and white variegated form of Elastica and the "Banjo Fig" (Ficus pandurata) at \$1.00 each, are not carried by the chain stores at all.

FANCY LEAVED CALADIUMS, PANDANUS VEITCHII and UTILIS, CROTONS, and DRACAENAS, all make excellent house plants, as well, and have been described in the previous pages.

